

CITY HALL  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

May 24, 2011

Mr. Don Knabe  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
One Gateway Plaza, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Boardroom  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Re: Crenshaw / LAX Transit Corridor Project

Dear Mr. Knabe:

First, we would like to commend your board and the project staff for the inclusion of several items that we previously expressed as critical to the development of a successful Light Rail Line through the Crenshaw Corridor Community. Namely, the consideration of a below-grade station at the Expo / Crenshaw connection and the below-grade segment through the Hyde Park community from 59<sup>th</sup> Street through to the West Station.

That said, as Metro staff has presented their most recent recommendations to your board for consideration; we would also like to add our evaluation of the project to date. Based on our review of the Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/DEIS), in addition to the staff recommendations, and as we have discussed in previous letters to your board, committee and to staff, we believe there are still outstanding elements in the design that are crucial to the successful construction of this project:

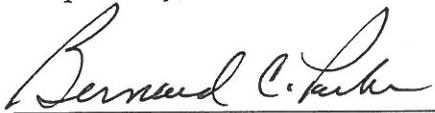
Grade Separation:

- Option #5 needs to be implemented and the inclusion of a below-grade station stop at Leimert Park near Vernon Avenue needs to be constructed. As community residents know, Leimert Park is considered the center of the African-American cultural scene in Los Angeles. Without an accompanying station stop at Leimert Park, which matches and reinforces the unique character of the surrounding neighborhood, this cultural destination point will be severely impacted. This station would also be critical to serving the highly-populated, residential communities of Leimert Park, Hyde Park, View Park, Baldwin Hills and surrounding neighborhoods.

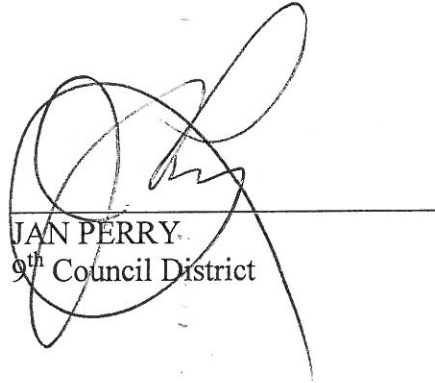
- It is our view that the planned, at-grade segment along Crenshaw Boulevard between 48<sup>th</sup> Street and 59<sup>th</sup> Street would best be served by a below-grade design alternative. We strongly believe that the Crenshaw Corridor community voice needs to be heard and the LRT mode needs to be constructed below-grade to the greatest extent possible within the Crenshaw Corridor.

We encourage you to join us in supporting the needs of the community and the important design elements that we have outlined above. The completion of this thoughtfully-designed project will help to meet the transportation, job-creation and economic development goals and objectives for South Los Angeles. Please contact Dennis Rodriguez, at (213) 473-7008, or via email at [Dennis.Rodriguez@lacity.org](mailto:Dennis.Rodriguez@lacity.org) if there are any questions.

Respectfully,



BERNARD C. PARKS  
8<sup>th</sup> Council District



JAN PERRY  
9<sup>th</sup> Council District

CC: Antonio R. Villaraigosa  
Michael D. Antonovich  
Diane DuBois  
John Fasana  
José Huizar  
Richard Katz  
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BCP:df